

Homily

Sunday, 30 Aug

ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY, THE FIRST READING AND THE GOSPEL HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO EACH OTHER.

THEY BOTH HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH GIVING US THE MESSAGE FOR THE SUNDAY EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES ITS NOT SO OBVIOUS.

IN BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND READING TODAY,

I DON'T THINK ITS NECESSARILY OBVIOUS BUT THEY AND AN ACTUALLY GO TOGETHER PRETTY WELL.

JEREMIAH IS A PROPHET.

GOD HAS ASKED HIM TO PROCLAIM A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF FAITH FOR THAT DAY AND TIME.

AND HE HAS DONE JUST THAT.

WHAT COULD BE EASIER.

GOD TOLD JEREMIAH, "I WANT TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE AND I WANT YOU TO DO IT.?"

WHAT COULD BE EASIER THAN THAT.

THE MESSAGE COMES FROM GOD SO IT SHOULD BE THE TRUTH AND PEOPLE WILL LISTEN.

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR DISCUSSION.

WHO CAN ARGUE WITH GOD.

JEREMIAH WILL SPEAK THE WORDS, THE PEOPLE WILL LISTEN AND THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR WAYS.

JEREMIAH FELT THAT HE HAD BEEN DUPED BY THE LORD.

JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE WAS ACCURATE.

IT TOLD THEM WHAT THEY NEEDED TO KNOW.

THE PROBLEM IS, THEY DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR IT.

INSTEAD OF CAUSING PEACE IT CAUSED DISSENSION AMONG MANY PEOPLE AND THE PROPHET WAS

CAUGHT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF IT.

THE PROPHET WAS DISILLUSIONED.

HE WAS TIRED.

HE WAS BEING CHALLENGED EVERY DAY.

SO HE SAYS WHAT MOST OF US WOULD SAY AT THAT POINT.”

I WILL STOP TALKING.

I’LL QUIT TALKING ABOUT GOD BECAUSE HE HAS DISAPPOINTED ME AND WORN ME OUT.

THE CONNECTION TO THE GOSPEL BECOMES APPARENT.

JESUS HAD JUST TOLD PETER THAT HE WAS A WISE MAN BECAUSE HE KNEW WHO JESUS WAS.

HE KNEW THAT HE WAS THE SON OF GOD.

PETER LOVE GOD. HE LOVED JESUS. HE WOULD FOLLOW HIM ANY WAY.

BUT IN ESSENCE HE DID NOT LIKE WHAT HE HEARD SO HE ASKED JESUS TO CHANGE THE PLAN.

HE WANTED JESUS TO LIVE, HE WANTED JESUS TO CHANGE LIVES.

HE HAD LEFT EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW HIM.

AND HE HAD JUST BEEN GIVEN THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

BUT JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING WHAT WOULD CAUSE PETER TO WEEP.

HE WAS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE PETER TIRED AND NO LONGER SURE OF HIMSELF.

IF IT WAS TO END IN DEATH, THEN WHAT WAS THE POINT.

BUT JESUS WASN’T THROUGH DISAPPOINTING PEOPLE.

THEY ALL HAD THEIR LIVES AND THEIR OWN DREAMS AND HE TOLD THEM TO PUT THEM ASIDE AND FIRST FIGURE OUT HOW THEY WERE GOING TO SAVE GOD.

HE TOLD THEM IN ESSENCE, THAT THEIR DREAMS WOULD PROBABLY BE PASSED AWAY OR AT THE VERY LEAST ALTERED FROM WHAT THEY HAD EXPECTED.

HE TALKED ABOUT THEM LOSING THEIR LIVES, LOSING WHAT THEY HAD PLANNED.J

HE WARNED THEM ABOUT DENYING WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

AND IN THIS CASE, I BELIEVE, JESUS WAS USING THE WORD ‘DENY’ IN THE SENSE OF SACRIFICE

TO WHAT HE WANTED FOR THEM AND FOR HIS WORLD.

EVERYONE ALIVE SOONER OR LATER HAS TO MAKE A SACRIFICE.

PARENTS WITH THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN PARTICULARLY IN POOR AREAS OF THIS COUNTRY AND

THE WORLD WHERE A DECISION IS MADE THAT THE CHILDREN WILL EAT FIRST, BEFORE THEIR PARENTS.

LEADERS GIVING IN TO THE NECESSARY THINGS FOR THEIR PEOPLE,N

AND MAYBE GIVING UP PART OF WHAT THEY WANT OUT OF LIFE.

SACRIFICE, THE THING JEREMIAH WAS ASKING OF HIS PEOPLE,

IS A WORD THAT IN EVERY GENERATION IS ONE THAT WE ARE SOMETIMES AFRAID OF.

SO AFRAID THAT THE PEOPLE DID NOT IMMEDIATELY GRASP THE SECOND PART OF HIS MESSAGE.

FOR EVERY SACRIFICE THAT IS MADE, JESUS SAYS THAT THERE IS A POINT TO IT.

AND IN THE CASE OF THIS GOSPEL, SACRIFICE WOULD BRING ABOUT A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE

THAT WAS MUCH MORE THAN THEIR OWN PLANS.

AND THAT WAS WHAT THE TROUBLED PROPHET REALIZED IN THE END.

HE MAY BE AFRAID OF HIS SACRIFICE.

HE MAY BE AFRAID OF WHAT LIES IN STORE FOR HIM.

HE MAY NOT SEE WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR THE LARGER PICTURE.

BUT IN THE END,

HE REALIZES THAT DESPITE HIS FEARS AND HIS WEARINESS,

THERE IS STILL SOMETHING ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD,

THAT IS LIKE A FIRE BURNING INSIDE OF HIM.

AND KEEPING IT IN, WOULD ONLY ADD TO HIS WEARINESS AND DISCOURAGEMENT.

HE WAS KNOWN AS THE 'WEEPING' PROPHET.

BUT FOR ALL OF HIS DOUBTS HE IS OFTEN CONSIDERED THE SECOND OF THE GREATEST PROPHETS AND

HIS WORD FROM GOD WAS HEARD.

PETER WOULD ALTER HIS PLANS AND HOPES AND WOULD BECOME ONE OF THE STRONGEST
EVANGELISTS OF ALL TIME.

AND THE PEOPLE WOULD FIND OUT, THROUGH THEIR SACRIFICES THAT THEY HAD INDEED FOUND
EVERYTHING THAT THEY TRULY WANTED.

JESUS DID NOT EVER SAY THAT FOLLOWING HIM WAS EASY.

HE NEVER PROMISED THAT.

AND HISTORY HAS SHOWN US THAT ITS TRUE.

BUT WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE SECOND PART.

BY WHAT WE DO, OUR LIVES ARE CHANGED AND WE FIND OURSELVES IN A PLACE WHERE ALL THINGS
MAKE SENSE

AND ALL THINGS BRING NEW LIFE THAT WE CAN'T IMAGINE.